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SECRET Bogotá Conference Folder. S/P Files.

MEETING AMONG MEMBERS OF THE POLICY PLANNING STAFF AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT, FEBRUARY 24, 1948, TO DISCUSS PPS PAPERS ON SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE BOGOTÁ CONFERENCE, CONVENING MARCH 30, 1948.

PROBLEM: To establish the position to be taken by the Delegation of the United States at the Ninth International Conference of American States regarding measures to combat communism in the Western Hemisphere.

BACKGROUND:

The American Embassy at Buenos Aires telegraphed last August regarding the desire of the Argentine Foreign Minister to have a talk with the Secretary prior to the Rio Conference. The Argentine Foreign Minister emphasized the desirability of anti-communist agreements to which the U.S. would be a party; then somewhat inconsistently stated: "Argentina does feel, however, that the United States should change in some ways its extreme opposed position vis-à-vis Russia." The Department did not adopt the Argentine suggestion regarding anti-communist agreements.

Last year the Dominican Government suggested to the Haitian Government the negotiation of an anti-communist agreement. Haiti side-stepped the suggestion by replying that the Dominican Government might take the initiative regarding a multilateral agreement among the American Governments. The Dominican Government followed the Haitian suggestion, but its proposal met with little approval. The Department instructed diplomatic officers in the other American Republics, under date of December 17, 1947, that pending further instructions the Department believed that no anti-communist agreements should be entered into by the American Republics, but that the

situation should be handled by each Government in the light of conditions existing in the various countries.

SUGGESTIONS:

At the Bogotá Conference, the Delegation of the United States should take the position that it will not enter into bilateral or multilateral agreements regarding anti-communist measures.

There might be an exchange of information among the American Governments regarding measures to combat communism in the Western Hemisphere; although it might be preferable to substitute the word "totalitarianism" for "communism".

There also might be a continuation of war-time cooperation on a police level to combat totalitarian influence in the Americas. B, A4

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PROBLEM: To formulate the Department's policy and the principles on which it is based regarding the recognition of governments.

BACKGROUND:

References made to papers prepared by the group in the Department which is working on the Bogotá Conference.

There is some background on U.S. recognition policy contained in the RE memorandum of July 25, 1947.

The following is included in a draft policy statement regarding the other American Republics: "Our policy, subject to the fundamental interests of the

United States, is to base recognition upon: (1) de facto control of the territory and the administrative machinery of the state, including the maintenance of public order; and (2) ability and willingness of the de facto government to discharge international obligations."

SUGGESTIONS:

Should "general acquiescence of the people of a country in power" be an added principle of our recognition policy?

Should the Department continue consultation with other governments regarding the recognition of new governments, as was done during the war among the American Republics, or should recognition be a matter exclusively for the unilateral determination of each government?

Is it necessary in formulating recognition policy to consider the related but distinct problem of breaking relations with a foreign government?